

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to 2026 at St Mary's.

Please take a moment to enjoy the wonderful enrichment activities showcased below, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. Highlights included the pantomime, Christmas dinner, Professor Bubbleworks' exciting science workshop, the brilliant Nativity and our celebration of the Stars of the Term.

A heartfelt thank you for the generous Kindness Kit donations. A special thank you goes to siblings Gia, Gabriela, and Elías, whose powerful idea of Pocket Kindness Cards and Warm Heart Care Packages has inspired us all and will make a real difference to others. Please take a moment to look through the images capturing the collection and delivery of this beautiful initiative.

As we head into the holidays, we are reminded that: "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Warmest wishes,
Joe Pitchford
Headteacher

Key Dates

- W/C 02.02.2026 Spirituality lessons
- W/C 09.02.2026 Online Safety Week
- **Friday February 6th Non uniform: 'Dress like a teacher' day brought to you by School Council**

I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain with me and I with you then you will bear much fruit. Love one another as I have loved you.

John 15

Living out our vision through our Young Transformers Programme:

- transforming ourselves
- transforming others
- transforming community

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 5 was 95.76%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 6 was 96.16%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 97.03%

Gentle Reminder:

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please leave a message for the office team on the school absence line by calling 020 8521 1066 and dialling 1.

Please ensure this message includes the reason your child is off sick - i.e. sore throat, temperature or stomach bug.

If you need to collect your child for a medical appointment during the day or they are late to school due to a medical appointment, you will need to provide the school office with an appointment letter/record.

Important Messages

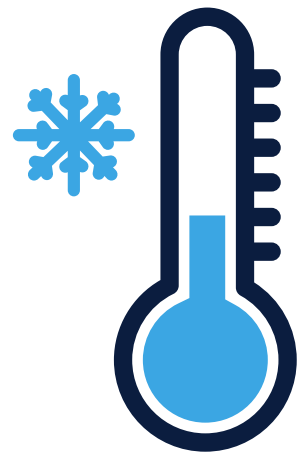
Medication

If your child has medication in school, please ensure that you have noted down the expiry dates to ensure we have the correct medication in school. If your child's doctor has made any changes to their medication or the procedure for caring for your child, please ensure the office is informed in writing of any changes and receives a copy of the documents from the GP.



Cooler Weather

As the temperature are getting cooler, we would like all children to bring a light jacket that is labelled with their name however still continue to bring in their own water bottle.



Message from Leann

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that our school community takes great pride in the social justice projects run through our Young Transformers programme. We are delighted to share that, thanks to the generosity and determination of our pupils, families and staff, the three schools in our Trust have raised over £20,000 to support people affected by homelessness.

We are proud to have donated these funds to Centrepoin, Depaul, the local Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter, Barking Churches Unite and other initiatives. The funding has been used to sponsor shelter beds for the winter season, provide bursaries, support emergency helplines, contribute to Nightstop hosts (including a hot meal, a welcome pack of toiletries, new pyjamas, and access to showers and laundry facilities) and offer counselling. Our school communities have also been creating Kindness Kits to support vulnerable people during the winter months.

Through this work, children have deepened their understanding of homelessness and the importance of compassion and community action. We are incredibly proud of these achievements and remain committed to social justice, ensuring everyone has a place of welcome and sanctuary.

In the week before we broke up, the children will take part in four 'Hope Lights Up' lessons, with our 'Ribbons of Welcome' session serving as the first introduction to the programme. During these lessons, we will show the children that Jesus always stood up for the most vulnerable in society, even if this challenged common practices and beliefs. We encourage the children to think critically about the world around them and to respond positively by taking action, showing compassion and fostering understanding. It is remarkable what we have achieved across our three schools, though much work remains in challenging prejudice, inequality and discrimination.

This term, we will deepen our understanding of British Values and explore why they matter in a diverse society. We will also examine concepts such as freedom, democracy and tolerance. As children develop their understanding, we will encourage them to reflect on different viewpoints, ask thoughtful questions and recognise that questions about identity and belonging do not always have simple answers.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely,

Leann

Deputy Headteacher



Young Transformers

MAKERS OF CHANGE

SPRING TERM

YR

CREATIVE

Mindful Movement Class

Y1

CARING

Cards for our unsung Heroes

Y2

CARING

Litter Picking

Y3

CONFIDENCE

Bollywood Dancing

Y4

CREATIVE

STEM workshop

Y5

CREATIVE

West End musical workshop

Y6

CARING

3D printing gifts

Courageous Advocacy



Spring Term

YR

The Reception children will continue to read and age appropriate books about advocacy and equality.

Equality

The children will be considering what is important to them and creating 'Dear World...' statements.



Y1

Respect

Year 1 will read some stories about being eco-friendly and create their own mini-books or story maps with eco messages.

Y2

Caring

Year 2 will learn more about the throwaway culture of Fast Fashion through to the unethical pay and working conditions of ready-made garment workers. They will host a uniform swap event in the Spring.

Y3

Truth

This term, the children will be focussing their efforts on the 'Send my Friends to School' campaign. They will create craftivism puzzle pieces which will be sent to those in charge of our country.



Y4

Wisdom

In Year 4, students will collaborate in groups on an engaging oracy project, preparing and delivering their own TED Talks on topics that resonate with them. Leveraging technology and their communication skills, they aim to share their messages with a wide audience. This term, they will focus on researching and developing their chosen topics.



Caring

Y6

The Year 6 pupils will be delving into the United Nations 17 Goals for sustainable development. They will focus in on the goal to end poverty learning about poverty, exploring biases linked to poverty and develop thier own thinking into a Ted Talk outline.



Y5

Wisdom

Year 5 will be learning about the United Nations Goals for sustainable development focussing in on the goal of zero hunger. They will present their learning and ideas for the future.

Reading Tip

Build Reading into the Day

Find a regular time for reading that fits your child's energy — before bedtime, after dinner, or at breakfast. A short, predictable reading slot helps make books part of daily life.



Books We Love:

Do you have a favourite book you think everyone should read? We'd love for you to share it! Each newsletter, we'll feature a Book Recommendation from one of our school community.

Here's how to take part:

1. Pick a book you love.
2. Tell us your name and age.
3. Write a short note about why you recommend it.

You can send your recommendations into school using this GoogleForm link below. Your recommendation could be featured in our newsletter for all your friends to see!

of the Week

Please click on this link to submit your book recommendation:

<https://forms.gle/nJ1sAmEUyBpN2oYj9>



PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

**Do you have a child who was born
between 1 September 2021 and 31
August 2022?**

**If so, your child is eligible to start
primary school in September
2026.**

**To make an application, please
apply online at
www.eadmissions.org.uk
by 15 January 2026.**

**For more information, visit the Waltham
Forest Primary Admission page:
[https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/
schools-education-and-learning/apply-
primary-school](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/apply-primary-school) where you can download a
copy of the Starting Primary School 2026
brochure with full details on how to apply.**

Healthy Snacks



We would like to remind parents and carers that St Mary's is a Healthy School. Children should not bring chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks as morning snacks, if your child does bring these in, they will be replaced with a piece of fruit and sent home with them at the end of the school day. Please ensure that should you like to provide your child with a snack that it is a healthy option. Nut free cereal bars, yoghurt bars or fruit bars are recommended.

All children are encouraged to drink water regularly – please ensure that your child is bringing in their own water bottles, these can be refilled during the school day.

We are proud to be a nut free school!



Food Bank



We have now got a food bank located in our school office foyer. We are welcoming donations of tinned goods and non perishable items.

The food bank is open for any families struggling with the cost of living crisis. You are welcome to come into the office at any time to collect items that you may need.

Any extra donations will be donated to local food banks to provide support our local community.

Parent Workshops

We have online workshops for parents that cover a variety of topics. This can be located under the Parents Tab on our school website. We offer these workshops to support learning at home.



Term Dates: 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025 First Half (37 Days)

INSET – Mon 1st, Tues 2nd and Wed 3rd September 2025

Start – Thursday 4th September 2025

End – Friday 24th October 2025

Half Term: Monday 27th October -31st October 2025

Second Half (34 Days)

Start – Monday 3rd November 2025

End – Thursday 18th December 2025

Holidays: Friday 19th December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term 2026 First Half (30 Days)

Start – Monday 5th January 2026

End - Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026

Second Half (25 Days)

Start - Monday 23rd February 2026

End – Friday 27th March 2026

Holidays: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

Summer Term 2026 First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 13th April 2026

End - Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term: Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 (during Half Term)

Second Half (35 Days)

Start - Monday 1st June 2026

End – Friday 17th July 2026

St. Mary's Christian Vision

I AM THE VINE AND YOU
ARE THE BRANCHES. IF
YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND
I WITH YOU, THEN YOU
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I
HAVE LOVED YOU.
(JOHN 15).